

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 628

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the  
2 death of Thomas Daniel Franks of Nacogdoches on December 31, 2018,  
3 at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Bernard and Anna Franks, Thomas Franks  
5 was born in Stockman on January 29, 1932; he graduated from Stephen  
6 F. Austin State University and went on to earn a master's degree in  
7 education from the University of Houston and a doctoral degree in  
8 education from Indiana University Bloomington; early in his career,  
9 he was an elementary teacher and assistant principal in the  
10 Brazosport Independent School District, and he later taught at  
11 Westminster College and Bible Institute in Tehuacana, Fairview  
12 Elementary School in Bloomington, and Oklahoma State University in  
13 Stillwater; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Franks joined the faculty of SFASU in the early  
15 1960s, and he served as department chair and dean of education; he  
16 was instrumental in the establishment of a doctoral program in  
17 educational leadership and the SFA/NISD Charter School; active in  
18 many professional associations, he was the recipient of myriad  
19 accolades, including both the Distinguished Professor and  
20 Distinguished Alumnus awards from SFASU; he also benefited the  
21 wider community in numerous leadership roles, among them trustee of  
22 Nacogdoches ISD; following his retirement in 2000, he served on the  
23 boards of the Timpson Area Genealogical and Heritage Society and  
24 the Shady Grove Cemetery Association; he was a valued member of

1 First United Methodist Church of Nacogdoches for more than a half  
2 century; and

3 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Dr. Franks shared a rewarding  
4 relationship with his wife, Dorothy Smith Franks, that spanned 63  
5 years; he was the father of five children, Thomas Franks Jr., who  
6 preceded him in death, and Carl Franks, Luanna Adams, Scott Franks,  
7 and Rhonda Richardson, and he took great pride in his  
8 grandchildren, Jamie and Shawn Askey, Randy and Kaylee Franks,  
9 Whitney and James Frazier, Meredith and Jerry Fehlker, Seth and  
10 Kalyn Franks, Anna and Hollis Smith, and Jessica, Jenna, and  
11 Katelyn Richardson, as well as his great-grandchildren, Kayne and  
12 Klaire Askey, Jolee Grace Conner, Jack Fehlker, and Addilyn Franks;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, While the death of Thomas Franks brings great  
15 sadness to his family and friends, he leaves behind a legacy that  
16 will long resonate in the Nacogdoches community; now, therefore, be  
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Thomas Daniel  
20 Franks and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing;  
21 and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Thomas  
25 Franks.